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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ The Security Council agrees with Secretary-General that UNAMIR's civilian police component be increased from 90 to 120 observers; says more human rights officers also desirable.

+ Heavy fighting continues around Bihac; UNPROFOR concerned with deployment of 100 more Serb troops near town; urges parties to respect current cease-fire.

+ Economic and Social Council decides "development of Africa" will be theme of its 1995 high-level segment.

+ Human Rights Commission told debt burden, poverty and disease hinder right to development; Latvian Prime Minister urges Commission to express grave concern at human rights violations in Chechnya.

+ Secretary-General will report on Myanmar to Human Rights Commission following talks by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs with government leaders in Yangon.

+ Government subsidized reliance on fossil fuels is justified when developing countries need to increase energy for survival and economic development, Committee on New and Renewable Energy Sources is told.

+ Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary recommends five-minute time-limit for statements by participants at Special commemorative meeting of General Assembly.

+ Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Framework Convention on Climate Change considers location of Convention's permanent secretariat; Geneva, Bonn and Toronto proposed as potential sites.

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The Security Council has agreed with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's recommendation that the strength of the civilian police component of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) be

increased from 90 to 120 police observers. In a letter to the Secretary-General from its President Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, the Council said it believed that an increase in the the number of human rights officers in the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda was also desirable. It noted that a functioning judicial system was essential in the government recovery programme to establish internal security, and also for the return of refugees. The Council said it attached great importance to the establishment of an effective mine-clearance programme based on the plan submitted by the United Nations in Kigali.

Meanwhile, members of the Security Council mission to Rwanda, were in Kigali yesterday, where they met with Special Representative Shahryar Khan and representatives of humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations. They will also hold discussions with the Rwandan President and Prime Minister. Earlier, the mission visited Bujumbura, Burundi, where a regional conference on refugees, returnees and displaced persons will be held 15- 17 February.

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In Bosnia and Herzegovina, heavy fighting continued around the "safe area" of Bihac over the weekend, especially in Bosanska Krupa, east of the Bihac pocket, according to a United Nations spokesman. Bosnian Serb tank and artillery rounds fired into the town killed one civilian. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was greatly concerned at the deployment of 100 additional Serb troops two kilometres from Bihac town's front lines, the spokesman said. Fighting could increase around Bihac in the next 48 hours and UNPROFOR was urging all parties to respect the current cease-fire.

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The Prime Minister of Latvia, Maris Gaillis has urged the Commission on Human Rights to express serious concern about the tragic events in Chechnya in view of the grave violation of human rights being committed there by the Russian armed forces. He strongly recommended that additional financial resources be allocated to the United Nations human rights machinery and humanitarian operations. The Commission was continuing its debate on economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development and the functioning of international human rights treaty bodies.

Earlier, the Commission was called on to speak plainly about democracy, development and human rights, by the United Kingdom's Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. He said that 1994 had witnessed good work by the treaty monitoring bodies. However, it was disappointing that a number of countries, notably Iran, Sudan and Cuba continued to refuse access to the Commission's Special Rapporteurs.

Several speakers stressed the negative impact of the debt burden, extreme poverty and natural disasters on economic and social development. They also

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spoke of the duty of all States to cooperate in eliminating obstacles to development and the need for a process of accountability in implementing the Declaration on the Right to Development.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will submit a report shortly on Myanmar to the Human Rights Commission, following a visit there by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Alvaro de Soto, a United Nations spokesman said today. Mr. de Soto, who has already reported to the Secretary-General held talks with Government leaders in Yangon on human rights, relations with the political opposition and the policy of reconciliation with the national races. Discussions are expected to continue when the Foreign Minister of Myanmar visits New York in the Spring.

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The Economic and Social Council has decided that the development of Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, will be the theme of its 1995 high-level segment. Continuing its organizational session on Friday, the Council also decided to consider the theme during the one-day policy dialogue, which is part of the segment. Still pending, was the question of the invitation of heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions, as well as of other United Nations agencies to take part in the dialoguee.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to submit nominations for the reconstitution of the Committee for Development Planning taking into account the need for balanced representation in the economic, social and environmental fields, and to reconvene the Committee before the end of 1995. The Secretary-General was also asked to submit a report to the Council's 1995 substantive session to enable it to review the Committee's working methods.

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Government subsidized reliance on fossil fuels could sometimes be justified when developing countries needed to increase energy for survival and economic development, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development has been told. The expert for India said developing countries would need to balance conventional and renewable sources of energy to meet lighting, cooking and employment-generating activities.

Addressing the Committee as it continued its consideration of energy for rural development and biomass for energy, he said his own country needed to double or triple its energy consumption and increase commercial use of its biomass sources. To address current and future pollution, it had launched one of the world's largest efforts to utilize biomass, solar, wind and other renewable energy sources.

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The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary has decided to recommend that participants in the Special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly limit their statements to five minutes. However, it was unable to agree on arrangements for establishing the list or order of speakers. A number of representatives expressed concern on how speaking slots would be allocated between heads of State and heads of government. Another option was to have a mix of heads of State and government within each meeting as was done during the last Assembly's general debate.

According to the Chief of Protocol, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, 57 heads of State, 19 heads of government and seven other delegations had already accepted the invitation to address the commemorative meeting, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 24 October 1995. More acceptances were being received daily and from 100 to 110 heads of State from the Non-aligned movement were also expected to attend, she said.

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The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change has been given three criteria for the selection of the site for the Convention's permanent secretariat. The criteria include international access to the city and the secretariat; savings derived by its proximity to other United Nations offices or secretariats; and contributions offered by the potential host government. The first criterion favoured the location at one of the established United Nations headquarters. The third criterion tilted the choice in favour of the government making the best financial offer. Geneva, Bonn and Toronto were proposed as potential sites for the secretariat.

Some representatives expressed concern that the financial and other criteria tended to exclude offers from developing countries that had not previously hosted a United Nations body. The Executive Secretary of the Committee said the choice of site would be up to the Conference of the Parties and the Committee.

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